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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 21, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CANDICE S. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Bishop Vicken Aykazian, The Armenian Church of America, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of creation, we ask Your blessing on the men and women gathered here today, all of whom labor in the cause of liberty and justice for the people of this great Nation.

We pray that You will inspire our leaders with wisdom, compassion, and resolution in the face of evil. In a time of uncertainty across our world, Lord, we seek above all to know and perform Your will. We pray that You will remember the precious sacrifices made in the name of liberty, that You will shepherd the downtrodden out of the darkness of tyranny, and that You will steer our entire world to a new dawn of peace and dignity, for all Your children.

We are aware, Lord, of the solemn occasion approaching us this week marking the 90th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Even after four generations, the effects of that terrible episode are still felt. We ask You to grant rest to the souls of all whose lives were taken and bestow Your peace on their descendants.

Finally, Lord, we thank You for the bounty and liberty of this great coun-

try of America. Bless this land and her people, so that America may continue to be the great beacon of hope to our world.

For all of these blessings, may Your Name be praised from generation to generation. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BERKLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five 1-minute requests per side.

HONORING KENNETH SCHERMERHORN

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, on Monday, April 18, 2005, Tennessee lost legendary Nashville Symphony Orchestra conductor, Maestro Kenneth Schermerhorn. For more than 2 decades as music director and principal

conductor, he led the Nashville Symphony not only to national recognition but to international acclaim.

With astounding talent, Schermerhorn was not simply a metronome leading musicians through a musical score; rather, he gave life to the music he so clearly loved. He enriched the lives of thousands of adults and children in middle Tennessee, and he brought the joy of music to communities around the globe. He truly was a dear friend to so many Tennesseans and an inspirational leader to those of us who served on the symphony board.

It is with deep sorrow that I join music lovers in my State and in countries around the world to mourn the loss of our gifted friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

RISING GAS PRICES

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, gas prices are rising at alarming rates across the country, and these costs are hurting America's working families. The average price of a gallon of gas in Arkansas is \$2.11, up from \$1.72 just a year ago. That is a 22.6 percent increase. This high cost not only affects our overall economy but also directly impacts individual families, seniors, and farm families. Our farm families are facing higher overhead costs and family vacations are being canceled for many working families.

Americans deserve more. They deserve to know why the cost of gas is skyrocketing. More importantly, Americans deserve a solution. We must reduce our Nation's dependence on foreign oil.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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